

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) A lane assist system for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a surround sensor device, which is mounted on the vehicle, for detecting a lane of the vehicle; and

a device for alerting a driver of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) actually departs the lane, the device being adapted to cause a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface on which a lane departure at least one of (a) threatens and (b) is taking place, the vibration being produced by a vibration mat underneath the seating surface of the driver seat, the vibration mat being adapted to be activated separately for the left and right side;

wherein:

the surround sensor device includes a sensor for detecting vehicles approaching from a rear;

if it is detected, during a change to a new lane, that a vehicle is rapidly approaching from the rear on the new lane, the lane assist system outputs a warning;

the surround sensor device includes a sensor for detecting a roadway edge; and

in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to cross the roadway edge and (b) actually crosses the roadway edge, the lane assist system is configured to automatically intervene in a steering system of the vehicle.

9. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the device outputs control signals for the vibration mat.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 9, wherein the vibration mat is integrated into the driver seat in such a way that the vibration is noticeable on the seating surface of the seat.

12. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, further comprising a secondary warning device for outputting at least one of a visual and an acoustic warning signal.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a lane assist system for a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

detecting, via a sensor, whether a vehicle is rapidly approaching from a rear;

generating a warning for a driver of the vehicle if it is detected, during a change to a new lane, that a vehicle is rapidly approaching from the rear on the new lane, wherein generating the warning includes a processor outputting a signal to a vibration unit for generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface corresponding to a direction of the change to the new lane, the vibration being produced by a vibration mat underneath the seating surface of the driver seat, the vibration mat being adapted to be activated separately for the left and right side;

detecting, via the processor and based on sensor signals, a roadway edge; and

intervening automatically, by the processor, in a steering system of the vehicle in the event that the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to cross the roadway edge and (b) actually crosses the roadway edge.

15. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 8, wherein the device for alerting the driver causes a vibration, on a side of the seating surface corresponding to a direction of the change to the new lane, as the warning.

16. (Previously Presented) A lane assist system for a motor vehicle, comprising:
a surroundings sensor device mounted on the vehicle and adapted for sensing a lane of the vehicle; and

a device adapted for:

warning a driver of the vehicle when the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) is departing the lane, the warning being performed by generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface at which the departure threatens to take place or is taking place; and

outputting at least one of an audible warning signal and a visual warning signal conditional upon a determination that the driver has not reacted to the vibration and the vehicle continues to depart the lane or threaten to depart the lane.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) The lane assist system according to claim 16, wherein the device is adapted to output an acoustic signal simultaneously with the vibration.

19. (New) A method for operating a lane assist system for a motor vehicle, the method comprising:

sensing a lane of the vehicle by a surroundings sensor mounted on the vehicle;

warning a driver of the vehicle when the vehicle at least one of (a) threatens to depart the lane and (b) is departing the lane, the warning being performed by a processor outputting a signal to a vibration unit for generating a vibration, noticeable to the driver, in a driver seat on a side of a seating surface at which the departure threatens to take place or is taking place; and

outputting by the processor a signal for generating at least one of an audible warning signal and a visual warning signal conditional upon a determination that the driver has not reacted to the vibration and the vehicle continues to depart the lane or threaten to depart the lane.